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Senate approves Sen. Hardiman's Wheels to Work bill

LANSING – The Senate today sent to the governor a bill sponsored by Sen. Bill Hardiman, R-Kentwood, that would eliminate the sales tax for people who receive donated vehicles from charitable organizations.

“My legislation aids people in getting a job by removing lack of transportation as an obstacle,” Hardiman said. “Instead of hindering people willing to donate vehicles to low-income people by taxing the transfer, we’re now encouraging such charity.”

Goodwill Association of Michigan is developing a statewide transportation initiative to provide vehicles for families and individuals working toward independence and self-sufficiency. Under Michigan law, people have to pay sales tax on the value of the vehicle they receive.

Goodwill works with other Michigan organizations to help remove obstacles to employment for people with disabilities or other disadvantages.

The “Wheels to Work” program takes qualified donated vehicles and repairs them. The vehicles then are sold to qualified buyers at below market prices based upon the buyers' financial status and lack of transportation to work.

Hardiman's legislation, Senate Bill 1001, would require recipients to be employed at least 20 hours a week and keep their jobs after receiving the vehicle. It also would require that a person without a job or employed fewer than 20 hours a week could receive a vehicle if he or she can show a position can't be accepted without having transportation first.

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